

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROBERT J. SUDDARTH, SERVING
WITH DISTINCTION FOR 32 YEARS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank a loyal and dedicated public employee who has served Rutherford County with distinction for 32 years as circuit court clerk, and to congratulate him on his retirement.

I have a feeling that if you were able to look up the phrase "longtime resident" in the dictionary you just might see Robert Suddarth's picture next to it. He moved to Rutherford County in 1946, attended my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University, and married Mary McKee in January 1947.

After working at the State Farm central office for 7 years, he was elected to his first term as circuit court clerk in 1962. He served that office and the people of Rutherford County with distinction for 32 years.

He will be missed not only by judges, attorneys, officers of the court, and his 30 deputy clerks, but by the police departments in Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Lavergne and, of course, the Rutherford County Sheriffs Department.

Mr. Suddarth has served the community not only professionally but as a volunteer and citizen as well. He has worked assiduously on behalf of the Lions Club, the Sportsmen's Club, the Farm Bureau, and is an active member of the Old Lebanon Methodist Church.

The retirement of Mr. Suddarth leaves more than a trace of sadness for his friends and colleagues, but considerable happiness for his beloved family members who can now spend more time with him: his wife, Mary, who has also served the community as a teacher for 29 years; his daughter, Mary Lou Suddarth-Orr, and son-in-law, Wayne Orr; and his three grandsons, Laurence, Ethan, and Jarred.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD B. SUTTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, this last week of August marks the end of Richard B. Sutton's 40-year career serving Sumner County. He may be retiring as sheriff, but his career boasts of service in many other capacities. Sumner County is indeed losing an active, dedicated, and loyal public servant.

Sheriff Sutton was first elected sheriff in 1968 and proceeded to serve the maximum of three consecutive 2-year terms. Following this, he was elected general sessions and juvenile judge in 1974, where he spent 8 years helping at-risk youth.

However, the role of sheriff seems to have suited Mr. Sutton perfectly. In 1982, he was reelected. Then in 1986 and 1990, he was reelected to continue in this position. The end of Sheriff Sutton's career as sheriff will, however, come to an end with his retirement August 26, 1994.

Not only has Sheriff Sutton been active in elected office, but he has also been a prominent member of Sumner County, visible on committees and in associations, always willing to help where needed. The exhaustive list includes: Project director of TRAC House for runaways; vice president of the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association; the board of directors of Sheriffs' Youth Town, a correctional camp for youth offenders; vice president of the General Sessions Judges Association; director of Sumner County Volunteer Ambulance Service; a committee member of the United Way Campaign; director of the Mid-Cumberland Council of Governments; a member of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Commission; a member of the Hendersonville Hospital Board of Trustees; and a member of the Hendersonville-White House-Gallatin-Portland Chamber of Commerce. Remarkably, this long list does not include all the organizations with which he has been involved or the awards that have been bestowed on him.

Sheriff Sutton, along with his wife, Tennie, raised three girls in Sumner County. The Sutton family has been supportive through his four decades of public work and are active members of the College Heights Baptist Church.

As for the future, Mr. Sutton plans to spend more time with his wife and daughters. However, for a man with such community spirit, for a man who knows that one person can still make a difference, old habits do not die easily. Fortunately, he does not plan to sever all ties with the organizations and boards of Sumner County.

Please join me in thanking Sheriff Sutton for his 40 years of invaluable service and contribution to Sumner County. We will remember him fondly. Friends can celebrate with the Sutton family August 26 at the National Guard Armory in Gallatin.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR.
TOM WALLACE AND FRANKLIN
ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, 5 days from now, Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro will celebrate not only its 40th anniversary, but also the 40th anniversary of its pastor, Dr. Tom Wallace, as a member of the clergy.

Brother Wallace has devoted 40 years of his life preaching, helping those in need and working to create a true international congregation through missionary work. He has been at Franklin Road Baptist Church since September 1992 along with his wife, Janith. They have four children, two daughters and two sons, all of whom are married.

Brother Wallace did not know from the beginning that he would enter the clergy. As a young man, he worked at the GMC automobile plant in Pennsylvania. It was not until a few years later, after marriage, that he entered Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga.

From there, Brother Wallace had his first pastorate in Maryland. It was a long road to Tennessee, beginning in Maryland, continuing through Kentucky, and then most of the United States while he traveled as an evangelist preacher for nearly a decade.

However, he quickly found his place in Murfreesboro as the president of the Franklin Road Baptist School, as a leading supporter of the Union Mission in Nashville where he volunteers and as an active member of the Baptist International Missions Inc. Through this organization, he has spoken at missions in Asia, Africa, and South America, where he leads efforts to build a better life for the impoverished.

Franklin Road Baptist Church may be fortunate to have Brother Wallace, but he is also lucky to have found his way to Tennessee. In the 40 years since the church was built, it has been a powerful force in Murfreesboro. The school and the church were built to demonstrate a faith in people and a faith in God. The school was founded for our youth in order to provide them with a sound education and principles; the church was founded for everyone to share in order to establish a close community. I can confirm that these philosophies are alive and working from the welcoming faces and warm hearts that greet me when I come home.

This Sunday, August 28, Murfreesboro will celebrate with Franklin Road Baptist Church. That morning, the 10:30 service will be dedicated to the newly built Sunday Schoolrooms, fellowship hall, nursery, and church staff office. Brother Wallace's predecessor, Dr. Bob Kelley, who was with the church for 17 years, will be the special speaker. In the evening at 6:30, the congregation will celebrate with Brother Wallace, his children and nine grandchildren.

Please join me in remembering Franklin Road Baptist Church and Dr. Tom Wallace on their 40th anniversary and in thanking them for all they continue to offer to Murfreesboro.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

BETHEL BROWN, 28 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SUMNER COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, whoever it was who said that leaders aren't born—they're made—just might have been thinking of Bethel Brown. Over his long career of serving Sumner County, he's done exactly what leaders do: He ensured that our county government—and the people it serves—were both better off than when he assumed office.

After serving Sumner County for 28 years—8 years as county court judge and 12 as county executive—Mr. Brown will retire in September.

As county judge he once married 1,017 couples in a single year. In 1979, he married Mel Tillis and his wife in a ceremony noted by Paul Harvey. The radio broadcaster remarked on Tillis' well-known stuttering problem and quipped, "Judge Brown couldn't sing and Mel Tillis couldn't talk."

It seems that singing is about the only thing Mr. Brown couldn't do or hasn't done in his service to Sumner County. He shepherded it through a period of growth and prosperity so strong that for one period in the 1970's it required the construction of one school a year and the issuance of over \$100 million in revenue bonds.

He guided the building boom that included renovating the old courthouse twice, construct-

ing a new administration building and juvenile detention center and renovating the jail three times.

Mr. Brown is rightly proud of his role in guiding Sumner Regional Medical Center to its position as one of the finest in the area.

Taxpayer money was managed so well under this leadership that Sumner County's bond rating increased from A to AA. Because of his foresight and dedication, the only debt Sumner County will owe is one of gratitude: all debt will be retired by 2001.

As lasting and significant as his professional accomplishments are, Mr. Brown has more to be proud of, such as his able executive assistant, Linda Edwards, who also happens to be his daughter.

As he retires he will have more time to spend with his wife, 5 children, and 11 grandchildren.

He has earned it, and all Sumner Countians wish him well.

JOHN B. MANKIN, A CAREER OF SERVICE TO RUTHERFORD COUNTY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 1994

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, whoever it was who said that leaders aren't born—they're made—just might have been thinking of John Mankin. Over his long career serving Rutherford County, he's done exactly what leaders

do: He ensured that our county government—and the people it serves—were much better off than when he assumed office.

This Thursday afternoon, August 25, 1994, Rutherford Countians will have an opportunity to give Mr. Mankin something back when attending his retirement reception at the county courthouse.

Rutherford County has grown and prospered under his three terms as county executive and two terms as magistrate and commissioner for the sixth district, and his service on the planning commission guided that expansion in an efficient and orderly way.

Because of his financial management abilities, our bond rating of AA is the best of any county government in Tennessee.

Mr. Mankin's accomplishments are too long to list in their entirety, but none of us will forget that under his tenure a county engineering department and adult activity centers were established, our administrative offices were computerized, a new jail was built, emergency 911 service and permanent ambulance stations were instituted, idle land was sold and a whole host of other governmental services were improved.

Undoubtedly his wife Martha, his children Gaye and Ben and his grandchild, John B. Mankin III, are all as proud of him as we are.

In announcing his retirement Mr. Mankin said, "I have been deeply honored by the people of Rutherford County by being elected for three consecutive terms as their county executive."

Mr. Mankin, we have been honored as well.